



Seeing HOPE



Normandale Lutheran Church

**Second Sunday of Advent
December 7, 2025 | 9:30 am**

Welcome to Normandale Lutheran Church



We're Glad You're Here!

Led by the Holy Spirit and living in God's grace, Normandale Lutheran Church is a community of believers who love, learn, worship, and serve as we walk in relationship with Jesus Christ and others. We hope you find in us a place of welcome, a place of worship, a place for you.



ELCA

Normandale Lutheran Church is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation.

Welcoming Statement



RECONCILING IN CHRIST

We affirm that all people are created in the image of God, and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace. We welcome all people into full participation in the life and ministries of Normandale Lutheran Church.

We celebrate that there are differences among us, and believe that we can love one another, even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this statement of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.

We are committed to a ministry of reconciliation. We welcome and affirm our human family's diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, faith, history, socioeconomic status, physical and mental ability. We embrace this diversity as a gift from God, and invite all into a faithful journey toward greater love, understanding, and reconciliation.

Connect with us today

**NEW
HERE?**



Use the QR Code
to fill out our online
connect card.



952.929.1697



normluthchurch
normluthyouth



Normandale Lutheran Church
Normandale Lutheran Youth

normluth.org

Sundays at Normandale

Join us as we gather weekly
for worship and fellowship!

9:30 Worship
in the sanctuary

10:30 Coffee & Donuts
in the Fireside Room

Sunday School

10:40-11:30am | Ages 3 -3rd Grade

First Floor:

Preschool - Room 100

2nd Floor:

Grades K & 1 - Room 212

Grades 2 & 3 - Room 205

Not Registered? No problem!

Contact Lily @ laskegaard@normluth.org

Worship With Us

Hymnals are located in the pew backs. Both the ELW (red) and ACS (purple) hymnals are used in worship.

Hearing Devices are available to enhance your worship experience. Please ask an usher if you need assistance.

Holy Communion is offered during worship on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. All are welcome at God's Table. Gluten free wafers, dairy free bread, and grape juice are available.

Livestream of worship services are available as a way to participate in the regular worship life of our congregation. Visit normluth.org/livestream to watch from wherever you are.

NLC Kids

PrayGround is located at the front of the worship space and is filled with quiet toys and comfy seating for the littlest in our midst and their caregivers.

Extended PrayGround is located outside the sanctuary next to the Fishbowl for children age 4 and up and their families. There are quiet activities and a screen to see and hear worship.

Busy Bags filled with quiet activities are hanging outside the main entrance of the sanctuary.

Bulletins & Coloring Sheets are located on a table by the main sanctuary doors.

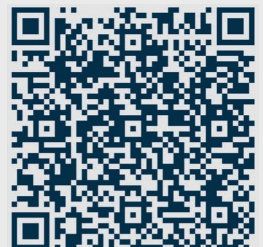
Noisy Offering: Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response. This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.

Ways to Give

Online:
normluth.org/give

Text:
gift amount to: 952.260.5601

Download the App:
ShelbyNEXT|Giving
select "Normandale Lutheran"
(55436)



Congregational responses in **bold**
* Please stand as you are comfortable

Gathering

Gathering Music

*Prepare the Way, O Zion
Comfort, Comfort Now My People*

Sondra Tucker
Cynthia Dobrinski

Words of Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Hymn

Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah
(stanza 2)

ELW 240

Litany

We gather together in this place: we who dare to see hope for a world renewed; **we who dare to dream God's dream.**

We proclaim with expectation, beyond all fear, **guided by faith and hope.**

We rejoice in our savior, **who is true peace and love.**

We treasure these things in our hearts. **And God guides us on the way.**

We see Jesus, like Malachi, John, and prophets before him, calling us, in loud cries, to peace. We light the candle of peace, **because peace requires us to pay attention to the needs of those around us.**

Come and worship, all you who seek. **We have come to wonder and praise.**

*Confession & Forgiveness

Hearing John the Baptist's call, let us invite the refining fire of God's Spirit, trusting that God will hear us, forgive us, and renew us.

God of true peace, **we confess the ways we maintain "peacefulness" at the expense of seeking justice and wholeness. We allow harm to the vulnerable, rather than risking our own discomfort or loss. We turn our eyes from suffering and all that needs changing, to maintain a false contentment. And we ask to be soothed rather than stirred up. Forgive and inspire us to bold and faithful witness! We pray in the name of Jesus, our Prince of Peace, Amen.**

Hear this good news: God pours out mercy, rushing over you like a river. Through the saving love of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and forever claimed as beloved of God. Amen.

*Gathering Hymn

Hark, the Glad Sound!

ELW 239

*Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day

God of promise, you draw near for the sake of transformation and healing. Now, gather our courage, channel our convictions, and invite us to do the same - leveling mountains, clearing new pathways, drawing near to You, to our neighbors, and to our own hearts, so that we might all know your peace, and be changed. In the Spirit of peace, we pray. Amen.

Word

Reading

Malachi 3:1-6a

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years. Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. For I the LORD do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Give the king your jus- | tice, O God,
and your righteousness to | the king's son;

**that he may rule your | people righteously
and the | poor with justice;**

that the mountains may bring prosperity | to the people,
and the | hills, in righteousness.

**Let him defend the needy a- | mong the people,
rescue the poor, and crush | the oppressor.**

May he live as long as the sun and | moon endure,
from one generation | to another.

**Let him come down like rain upon | the mown field,
like showers that wa- | ter the earth.**

In his time may the | righteous flourish;
and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall | be no more.

**Blessed are you, LORD God, the | God of Israel;
you alone do | wondrous deeds!**

**And blessed be your glorious | name forever,
and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- | men. Amen.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?

ELW Page 151

***Gospel**

Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when John saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Rebecca Gamble

***Hymn of the Day**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

ELW 249

***Sharing of the Peace**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Music at the Offering

Comfort, Comfort

Arr. John Ferguson

***Noisy Offering | Offertory Response**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Children are invited to cheerfully bring their "Noisy Offering" to the front during the Offertory Response. This offering will help Every Meal in their fight to end child hunger.

Holy Communion

*Prayer

Holy God, we bring our gifts and offerings to you because the voices of the prophets remind us of something bigger, something greater than any system this world offers us. We believe when we trust you with our resources, the reign of God comes much closer to reality on earth. Help us steward these gifts to create abundant life and love. With peace we pray, Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

ELW Page 152

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus

ELW Page 153

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Agnus Dei

ELW Page 154

Distribution Music

Instrumental

Humbly, Let Us Break Bread

Cathy Moglebust

Anthem

Lo, How a Rose

Hugo Distler

Hymns

Blessed Be the God of Israel
Come Now, O Prince of Peace

ELW 250
ELW 247

Communion Blessing

Post-Communion Prayer

Creator of all good things, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of blessing, small in their presentation, yet made magnificent by your holy imagining. May the hope of the Lord's table accompany each of us on our journeys from here. Amen.

Sending

*Sending Hymn

There's A Voice in the Wilderness

ELW 255

*Blessing and Sending

Go into the world, seeing hope.
Thanks be to God!

Sending Music

Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

J. S. Bach

Worship Leaders

Preaching:	Pastor Rebecca Gamble
Liturgist:	Pastors Maria Pederson, Adam White
Organist:	Gregory Peterson
Cantor:	Sherry Schroeder
Choir:	Normandale, Gregory Peterson, director; Lorna Wolthoff, accompanist
Instrumental:	Normandale Bells, Lorna Wolthoff, director
Acolytes:	Wyatt Pence, Jacob Hegrenes
Advent Wreath Lighting:	The Brula Family
Communion Set Up:	Jon Kuehl & Linda Van Guilder, Susie Baker
Communion Servers:	Bert & Charlie Ledder, Mary Quist Newins, Kim Pinkham, Wyatt Pence, Jacob Hegrenes
Greeters:	Mel Henry, Dot Olson
Lector:	Jean Wikoff
Sacristan:	Cindy Nelson
Ushers:	Kemme Team



Stay in the loop @ NLC

Community



**Sunday, December 14
9:00am-12:00pm**

Support CYF scholarships by shopping the Christmas Bake Sale! You can also **donate baked goods!** Drop off 12/10-14 at the

church office or contact Katie for more info: khein@normluth.org



**Christmas Program
December 14 | 9:30am**

Children ages 3 - 6th grade have been working hard to lead us with carols, scripture and acting out the story of Jesus' birth.

Enjoy a reception after worship and shop the CYF Christmas Bake Sale!

**2026
SUMMER
ADVENTURE**

Registration now open for ages 3-18

COMMUNITY MEALS

Wednesday evenings from 5:00-6:30PM
in Fellowship Hall

Pricing:

- \$10 - Ages 16+
- \$6 - Ages 3-15
- FREE - Ages 2 and under

See what's on the menu!



**FINAL WEEK -
Ends December 13**

Share the gift of God's love through holiday gifts & gift cards for our ministry partners: Normandale Housing, SAYFSM, and ACT-TC.

Make your Donation Online:



Minneapolis Area Synod
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2026 Young Adult Pilgrimage to Leipzig

August 9 - 25, 2026

Ten young adults, ages 18 - 26, from the Minneapolis Area Synod will be selected to attend.

Applications to attend due December 31, 2025.

SCAN TO APPLY

Adults



Saturday, December 13

9:00-10:30am:
Education

10:30am-Noon:
Caregiver Support Groups

Topic: Exploring Care & Support Services

This class examines how best to prepare for future care decisions and changes, including respite, residential, and end-of-life care. **Respite is available** - register online at normandalecenter.org/events. Presented by Jenna Fink, Alzheimer's Association, Minnesota-North Dakota Chapter.



Celebrating the life of
Shirley Swenson

December 16 at 1:30pm
Visitation at 12:30pm

at Washburn-McReavy in Edina



Pastor Led Bible Study
Most Fridays
November - January
7:00-8:00am
Fireside Room
(full schedule online)

Explore the book of Revelation through videos, group discussion, and commentary led by Pastor Adam. Remaining dates in this series: 12/12, 1/9, 1/16, 1/23.

Wednesday
Women's
BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays
September - May
9:30-11:30am
Fireside Room

Lecture on the book of Revelation followed by small group discussion.



Wednesday, December 10
11:00am-1:30pm
Fireside Room

The **Edina Singing Seniors** present a wonderful selection of Christmas songs. Take advantage of this opportunity to gather together to enjoy the music of the season - they'll even let us sing along! All are welcome. \$10 suggested donation includes lunch.



Bake Sale Prep Party!
Wednesday, December 10
5:00-6:30pm | Fellowship Hall
Mix, make and Mingle with fellow parents as we prepare for the CYF Bake Sale!



Prayer Service
Tuesdays
9:00-9:20am
Chapel

Come weekly for a simple morning service of prayer and reflection. All are welcome!

Holiday Concerts at Normandale

All are invited to enjoy the sounds of the season!

Exultate Christmas Festival Concert: Friday, December 12 . 7:00pm . Tickets at exultate.org

Giving Voice Chorus: Saturday, December 13 . 12:30pm . Tickets at givingvoicechorus.org

Apollo Club Concert: Saturday, December 13 . 7:30pm . Tickets at theapollowclubmn.org

****Concerts will be held in the Normandale Sanctuary****

This Week at Normandale Lutheran Church

December 8 - 14, 2025

Monday, December 8

1:00pm - 5:00pm	Heritage Committee Meeting	Room 308
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Tuesday, December 9

9:00am - 9:20am	Prayers for Peace	Chapel
4:00pm - 8:00pm	REACH Youth Juggling Club	Gym
6:30pm - 7:30pm	Alcoholics Anonymous	Room 207

Wednesday, December 10

9:30am - 11:00am	Wednesday Women's Bible Study	Fireside Room
11:00am - 2:00pm	Second Wednesday	Fireside Room
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Al-Anon	Multi Purpose North
5:00pm - 6:15pm	Christmas Program Dress Rehearsal	Fireside Room
5:00pm - 6:30pm	Community Meals	Fellowship Hall
5:30pm - 7:30pm	Adult Spanish Class	Studio B
6:30pm - 7:00pm	Advent Vespers Service	Sanctuary
6:30pm - 7:30pm	IGNITE	Fireside Room
6:30pm - 8:00pm	Normandale Choir Rehearsal	Rehearsal Room
7:30pm - 8:30pm	Life Out Loud: High School	Fishbowl
7:30pm - 9:00pm	AA Meeting	Studio A
8:30pm - 9:30pm	ABLAZE	Fishbowl

Thursday, December 11

9:00am - 10:00am	Pilates with Jen	Studio B
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Service Small Group	Second Harvest
3:15pm - 4:30pm	RJET Book Club	Virtual
4:00pm - 6:00pm	REACH Youth Juggling Club	Gym
5:30pm - 7:30pm	RJET Planning Meeting	Studio A
5:45pm - 6:45pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal	Multi Purpose North

Friday, December 12

7:00am - 8:00am	Revelation Bible Study	Fireside Room
7:00pm - 8:00pm	Exultate Christmas Festival Concert	Sanctuary

Saturday, December 13

9:00am - 10:30pm	2nd Saturday Caregiver Education	Room 209
12:30pm - 2:00pm	Giving Voice Chorus	Sanctuary
7:30pm - 8:30pm	Apollo Club Concert	Sanctuary

Sunday, December 14

9:00am - 12:00pm	CYF Christmas Bake Sale	Fireside Room
9:30am - 10:30am	Worship - Children's Christmas Program	Sanctuary
10:30am - 12:00pm	Coffee, Donuts & Fellowship	Fireside Room
11:30am - 1:00pm	Virtual Coffee Hour	Zoom (Virtual)

Seeing HOPE



Advent & Christmas 2025 Schedule

All are welcome for worship, celebration, & community this holiday season.

Wednesday Evening Prayer Service Weekly at 6:30 p.m.

Short, Centering Mid-Week Worship

DEC 3		DEC 10		DEC 17
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Sunday Worship Weekly at 9:30 a.m.

Traditional Service & Music

NOV 30		DEC 7		DEC 14		DEC 21
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Children's
Christmas Program

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship Wednesday, December 24

3:30 p.m.		5:00 p.m.		9:00 p.m.
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Family Friendly Featuring Cherub & Children's Choirs	Family Friendly Featuring String Quartet	Featuring Normandale Choir & Strings Holy Communion
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